

## THE DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT FACT SHEET

### The DAC Today:

Currently housed in a naval reserve facility built in 1947, the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) serves as one of Austin's oldest and most cherished community arts centers. Founded in 1978, the DAC serves all ten of Austin's council districts and has five distinct areas of programming including: Theater Performances, Community Rentals, Gallery Events, Art School and Artist Professional Development. In 2017, the DAC welcomed 66,000 visitors, community members and tourists from every Austin zip code, hosted 596 programs and provided opportunities for nearly 5000 artists. The DAC generated over \$640,000 in 2017 and is among the Parks and Recreation Department's top revenue sites.



All the above stands as a testament to the DAC's mission: to support emerging through established artists by creating opportunities to create, showcase and experience art first hand.

### The DAC Tomorrow:



As identified in a conditions assessment completed in 2010, the DAC building is beyond repair. The building was established as a temporary structure meant to be razed in the 1970s, but was adopted as a permanent home that has outlived its viability. The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will need to provide a new facility in order to continue to provide arts center services in a safe, healthy and sustainable environment.

While the DAC received funding from the 2012 bond, it was not in the amount needed for a full facility replacement. However, in November 2018 voters approved an allocation of \$25M for construction of a new DAC as part of the Libraries, Museums and Cultural Arts Facilities bond proposition. If constructed on City-owned parkland, this funding could allow for a replacement facility which provides roughly a 50% increase to the current building's programmable area.

The DAC has been the focus of multiple studies which determined that the redevelopment at the current site, due to its location within the floodplain and atop a former landfill, is seen as prohibitive from both, a practical application and cost impact. PARD has and continues to investigate feasible opportunities for the facility's redevelopment.

Currently, there is one site on City of Austin parkland being considered – the site at Butler Shores. *(turn page)*

***The site at Butler Shores:***

This potential site consists of a tract of parkland immediately behind the existing PARD main office building and the ZACH Theater, fronting Toomey Rd. on the south. To develop on this site would necessitate the relocation of the two existing softball fields currently programmed by Austin Independent School District (AISD). PARD staff is evaluating alternative sites for relocation of the ballfields, and will continue to coordinate with the AISD Athletic division as the project continues. The South Austin Little League programs three smaller ballfields adjacent to Barton Creek, which would remain in operation under the proposed scenario.



Potential benefits of the Butler Shores site include:

- Site is within reasonable proximity and service area of existing DAC
- Opportunity to improve parkland adjoining the PARD Main office and new DAC, including the activation of approximately 2 extra acres of parkland for public use (currently programmed exclusively for AISD softball)
- Supports the idea of an emerging Arts District on the South Central waterfront
- Opportunity for shared structured parking facility
- Opportunity to enhance Toomey Road streetscape and pedestrian connectivity to Zilker Park
- Consistent with recommendations in Town Lake Park Comprehensive Plan and Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan
- Central location and adjacent amenities are attractive to both artists and patrons
- Adjacency to PARD Main Administrative Office
- Proximity to and potential partnership opportunities with the ZACH Theatre
- Site is City of Austin Parkland and properly zoned for construction of a PARD facility.

Free of major development constraints, the Butler Shores site remains the top priority for the new DAC facility.

***Community Engagement and Input:***

Based on an electronic survey, which received over 600 responses: 54% support relocation to Butler Shores, 23% are neutral, and 23% expressed opposition. 88% of respondents believe that the DAC (in central Austin, south of Lady Bird Lake) is conveniently located.

Of primary concern to the potential Butler Shores relocation were issues of parking and traffic congestion. There was also interest in returning the existing DAC site in Butler Park to accessible park space, once the new facility is constructed.

PARD plans to offer additional engagement opportunities should the current proposal receive City Council's support.